

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

4340 East West Highway Suite 402 Bethesda, MD 20814

301-657-0270 FAX: 301-657-0275 TTY: 301-657-4155 e-mail: nasp@naspweb.org July 29, 2004

The Honorable Steny Hoyer 1705 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hoyer:

On behalf of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), we want to thank you for your sponsorship of the "Full-Service Community Schools Act" (H.R. 4585). We are enormously appreciative of your continued advocacy for full-service schools and the services and supports that would be afforded our students and families through such models.

Full-service community schools are a more efficient and effective means of providing children and families with the social service and academic support they need. Grants to facilitate the collaboration of public education and public/private organizations would help establish partnerships and programs to combine resources and improve service delivery. When schools, community-based organizations, and state and local agencies coordinate efforts to improve outreach, access, and program implementation, everyone benefits and students and families are better served.

NASP is a professional organization that promotes effective educational practices, by providing resources to parents, educators, and school psychologists and by advocating for public policies that best serve the diverse educational needs of children and families. School psychologists, as providers of academic interventions and mental health services, help bridge the gap between home and school, ensuring that both parents and teachers are working together to best serve children's educational and emotional needs. Community schools expand these efforts, designing their educational approach and their network of social support with the specific needs of the community in mind. It is with the best interests of our children and communities in mind, that you have introduced this legislation.

Again, I thank you for your being a champion of children and the full-service community schools model. I urge you to continue your advocacy. NASP will be there to help you promote H.R. 4585 and share the message of this legislation. Please feel free to contact us if there is further support or assistance we could offer.

Sincerely,

Susan Gorin, CAE Executive Director